



YouthFriends®

Standards of Conduct for Volunteers

All YouthFriends volunteers are asked to read and sign the following:

Characteristics of YouthFriends

- Honest and respectful.
- Patient with students.
- Flexible to student needs and schedules.
- Prompt, dependable and regular in attendance.
- Friendly to teachers and children.
- Supportive of administrators and school staff.
- Discreet, sincere and dedicated.
- Respectful of youth and mindful of confidentiality.

YouthFriend Responsibilities

- Sign in and out properly at each school visit.
- Wear YouthFriends identification at school.
- Keep all student information confidential, unless abuse or neglect is suspected; in that case, report concerns to the principal.
- Telephone the school secretary to notify the student if you will be absent.

YouthFriends Guidelines

- **All YouthFriends activities are school based.** Activities are to occur on school grounds during the regular or extended day. Any exceptions must follow school guidelines and have Building Connector and principal approval.

- **Volunteers may not transport students.**

- **Volunteers avoid all physical contact with students in the "strike zone" and interact with students in areas with others present.** Limit physical contact to accepted gestures of greeting, guidance and praise, such as shaking hands, high fives or side hugs given only after student permission.

YouthFriends Volunteers

- Avoid giving gifts or lending money to students.
- Support teachers and their ideas.
- Treat teachers, students and parents with respect.
- Realize you are a school visitor whose purpose is to give support to students.
- Do not make negative comments to others about the children or teachers.
- Exhibit behavior supportive of all ethnic/racial groups.
- Consult with the teacher and/or the Building Connector if problems occur. If not resolved, phone the District Coordinator to report problems.

The YouthFriends mission is to connect young people with caring adult volunteers at schools to promote success, encourage healthy behaviors and build stronger communities. This happens when YouthFriends are good listeners and good friends to students.

I, _____, (_____) (Please print name here)

have read the above and agree to follow these standards and guidelines for YouthFriends.

Date: _____

Thanks for making a difference for our young people.
Please sign and keep a copy for reference during your YouthFriends experience.